

## U.N. force in Croatia allowed to fight

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council Friday gave the nearly 14,000 U.N. peacekeepers under fire in Croatia the right to return and reorganise their forces to defend themselves. The decision came in a resolution extending the mandate of the force only until March 31, putting pressure on the Serbs and Croats to restore a ceasefire and begin drafting a peace accord. It also puts all the peacekeepers in both Croats and Bosnia under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, which authorises the use of force to carry out their mission. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said meanwhile Friday that suspended U.N. humanitarian aid to Bosnia will resume. Dr. Ghali, just back from a trip to Tokyo, told reporters after leaving a Security Council meeting that he has instructed the U.N. High Commissioner of Refugees to resume the aid she suspended Wednesday (See earlier story on page 6).

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## 3. Africa to end arms ties with Israel!

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — South Africa is planning to cease military cooperation with Israel to coincide with an opening up to the Arab World, a South African military official was quoted Friday as saying. The close military cooperation which linked South Africa to the Jewish state was the result of the "needs," and with the end of those needs South Africa is moving to end that cooperation, said Telman de-Vaal, executive general manager of Armscor, South Africa's arms manufacturing company. The daily Al Hayat said Mr. de-Vaal confessed that "there are still a number of contracts being executed with Israel, but these contracts will not be renewed when they end."

## U.N. appoints 'rapporteur' on Israel rights abuses

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations Human Rights Commission strongly condemned Israel for its actions in the occupied Arab territories Friday and appointed for the first time a special investigator to monitor alleged abuses. Despite opposition from the United States, the commission adopted four separate resolutions censuring the Jewish state for violating the rights of Palestinians. The commission, the U.N.'s main human rights forum, has passed resolutions condemning Israeli policies in the occupied territories every year since 1968 at its annual sessions. But U.N. officials said a stronger Third World contingent on the 52-member body — and anger at Israel's expulsion in December of some 400 Palestinians — allowed member states to push through stronger resolutions this year. One of the resolutions against Israel asks the commission to appoint a "special rapporteur" to investigate violations of international law and the Geneva conventions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Human rights activists said the appointment of a rapporteur would brand Israel as a serious violator of human rights — alongside Iran, Iraq, Burma and the former Yugoslavia — and give the issue a higher visibility.

## 31 Moroccan prisoners on hunger strike

RABAT (R) — The Moroccan Association of Human Rights (AMDH) and Friday 31 political prisoners had staged hunger strikes, 20 of them for an unlimited period, in protest against worsening detention conditions. Members of Islamic and Marxist opposition groups, the detainees are staging their fasts in jails at Casablanca, Kenitra and Oujda. In the central prison at Kenitra, 10 members of the illegal Islamic Youth fundamentalist group have been on hunger strike since mid-February. Ten Marxists of the outlawed Isti'lam (forward), detained in Oujda are staging a fast of unlimited duration.

## Hizbullahis burn Rushdie effigy

BEIRUT (AP) — Hundreds of Shiite Muslim zealots burned an effigy of Salman Rushdie in south Beirut Friday to declare support for Iran's renewal of a death sentence on the British writer. They set fire to an effigy of the author and shouted "Death to Britain, death to Rushdie" as they paraded through Beirut's Bir Al Abed suburb. The effigy was made up of a painted head of Mr. Rushdie on top of a jacket wrapped around a pole, with a sign next to the neck saying in Arabic, "Death to the heretic Rushdie." Men, women and children took part in the demonstration, which was organised by Hizbullah, the standard bearer of Iran's fiery brand of Shiite fundamentalism in Lebanon. The protest was led by Hizbullah clerics (See related story on page 2).

## Budget

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# Christopher arrives in Amman

Democracy in Jordan key point for discussions in addition to peace  
**U.S. envoy says Washington committed to peace efforts, but urges similar position from parties concerned ● Abu Jaber voices hope for success**

By a Jordan Times  
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Amman Friday for talks with His Majesty King Hussein and other officials on means of reactivating the stalled Arab-Israeli peace process.

In an arrival statement at Marka military airport, Mr. Christopher reiterated the American commitment to the peace process, saying that Washington "is prepared to be a full partner in the pursuit of peace in the region" provided the other parties share our determination to resume (the peace) negotiations."

The peace talks came to a halt in December when Arab parties boycotted them in protest against Israel's expulsion of about 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said he hoped Mr. Christopher's effort to reenergise the peace process would be successful.

"We look forward to our talks, seeking to advance and accelerate the peace process and ensure its success," Dr. Abu Jaber told reporters at the airport after the arrival of Mr. Christopher.

Dr. Abu Jaber reiterated Jordan's commitment to the peace process with the aim of achieving a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, but pointed out there are "serious threats" to the process.

"Since Madrid, the tension in the region has subsided with the level of Israeli violence in the occupied territories increasing; the current deportees problem being one symptom," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

Mr. Christopher did not mention the expellee crisis in his arrival statement in Amman but a senior U.S. official was quoted as saying Washington was working to get Israel speed up the process of reviewing the individual cases of the Palestinian evictees.

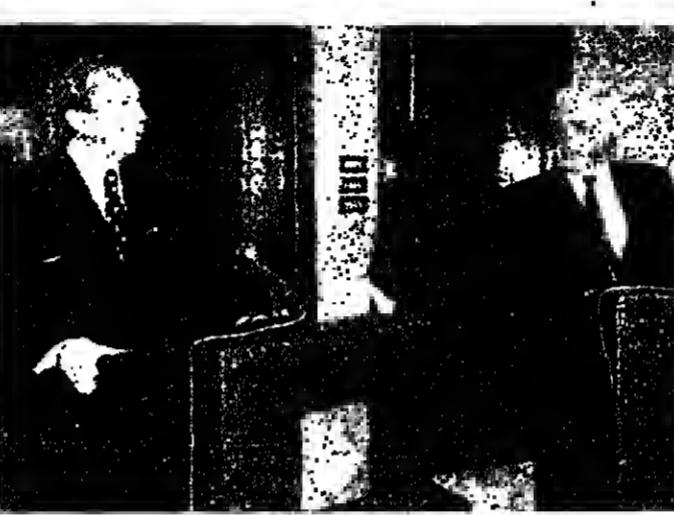
A compromise proposal made by Israel after the Security Council adopted Resolution 799 calling for the immediate return of the expellees offers to allow the return of 101 of the exiles while the term of banishment for the rest would be cut to one year. In addition, Israel also suggested that it would review the cases of the expellees with a view to possible return earlier than offered.

But the expellees have rejected the offer.

Dr. Abu Jaber said Jordan would listen attentively to Mr. Christopher's assessment of the

situation in the region and share with him its views regarding the need to attain a lasting and comprehensive peace that will enhance regional security, democracy and human rights.

Mr. Christopher said the U.S. recognises the critical role Jordan has played in launching and pushing forward the peace talks, adding that "I am interested in hearing the King's views, on what



U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher (left) and Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber talk to the press Friday (photo by Yousef Al Allan)

commitment we very much applaud," said Mr. Christopher.

The U.S. secretary arrived in Amman from Cairo on the second leg of a six country tour of the region that will also take him to Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Israel and possibly Lebanon.

In earlier statements, Mr. Christopher sought to lower expectations of his first foreign trip since he took office in January, saying he only aimed at hearing out the views of leaders of the region on means of reactivating the peace talks.

The success of Mr. Christopher's mission will largely depend on whether he will be able to find an acceptable solution to the expellee problem, something upon which the Palestinians have conditioned their decision to return to the peace negotiations.

The Palestinians and other Arab parties have said Israel has to implement Security Council Resolution 799 before the peace talks can be resumed but have indicated willingness to accept a gradual return of the expellees.

During his first visit to the country as U.S. secretary of state, Mr. Christopher will also hold talks with Jordanian officials on bilateral relations and means of enhancing them.

"In particular, I look forward to discussing the King's commitment to democratic values and to broaden political participation; a

Jordan and the U.S. can do to reenergize them.

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Egypt was also reported to have stressed this point in its talks with Mr. Christopher, saying that Israel has to comply with Resolution 799 and offering a compromise proposal on how the resolution can be implemented.

(Continued on page 5)

## Egypt, U.S. pledge to work for resumption of peace talks

an early resumption of the next round of talks," he said.

Ahead of the meeting, Egypt and the United States appeared in disagreement over Israel's offer to return 101 expellees immediately and the rest at the end of this year.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, on the first day of his first foreign mission, met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Musa in a bid to win their support for an early resumption of the talks.

It was unclear whether Mr. Christopher succeeded in persuading Egypt to accept the Israeli offer.

"You have here the agreement between the United States and (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin," Mr. Mubarak said.

"We have no new agenda but we are working to implement this resolution (799) fully. It will take some time," Mr. Mubarak said.

U.N. Resolution 799 calls for an immediate return of all the evictees, languishing for the ninth week on a snowy hillside in southern Lebanon.

Mr. Mubarak said he had a "very good meeting" with Mr. Christopher and was convinced

Washington in the first half of April.

"I find it a very good opportunity to exchange views with the president and to see what could be done in the peace process so as to move forward," Mr. Mubarak told the news conference.

"We are very keen for the peace process to continue and the negotiations to start as soon as possible and we discussed also the problem of the deportees and we are working so as to resolve this problem so as not to hinder the negotiations of the peace process," he added.

While Mr. Mubarak pledged to support the U.S. efforts for an early resumption of the peace talks, he also said "it will take some time" for Palestinians to come aboard."

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(Continued on page 5)

## Rantisi tells Christopher not to seek piecemeal solution

MARJ AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (AP) — The spokesman for the nearly 400 Palestinian expellees stranded in South Lebanon said Friday U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher should not waste time trying to work out a deal to repatriate them piecemeal.

"I ask Mr. Christopher not to lose time. We insist on the implementation of international justice which produced U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 for our immediate and collective return home," said Dr. Abdul Aziz Rantisi, a Gaza physician.

"We'll continue to reject American attempts to circumvent Resolution 799, even if we die here," Dr. Rantisi told reporters at the evictees' tent city between Israeli and Lebanese army lines.

Dr. Rantisi commented on reports that Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat was considering a compromise: A phased return of the evictees in return for Palestinians rejoining the American-sponsored talks.

"We reject the peace talks altogether, because in the end Palestinian participants in such talks would recognise Israel. This means that Palestinians would personally sign a document which says their land does not belong to Israel.

them. We reject this," he said. However, he reiterated that if Israel "reversed our (expulsion) order and pledged to the U.N. Security Council not to (expel) any Palestinian in the future, we will have a stand that I will not announce now."

Meanwhile, the evictees installed a satellite telephone in one of their nearly 50 tents and were overheard by reporters talking to their families and relatives in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The evictees did not allow the reporters to enter the tent, which housed the telephone's aerial.

A source at the camp, who refused to be named, told reporters all the evictees would be allowed to talk to their families and relatives by telephone throughout Ramadan.

It could not be determined who provided the evictees with the communications equipment, despite efforts by the Lebanese army to prevent all sorts of supplies from reaching their camp since Dec. 22.

Mr. Mansoor was the most senior Mujahedeen leader to die since the start of the 14-year Afghan war of resistance against the Soviet-installed government.

Mr. Ayanpoor, a former teacher, won fame as a commander of Mujahedeen forces in Badakshan in the war of resistance. He was about 50.

KABUL (R) — A prominent Mujahedeen commander who was governor of a northern Afghan province has been killed in a helicopter crash, a government spokesman said Friday.

Ghulam Mohammad Ayanpoor, governor of northwestern Badakshan province, died when his helicopter crashed 25 kilometres from the provincial capital Faizabad Wednesday.

The cause of the crash is not yet known," Mr. Morad said.

The head of the Badakshan supreme court and a deputy high court judge also died in the crash.

Mr. Ayanpoor was the second provincial governor killed in Afghanistan this month. Nasrullah Mansoor, governor of eastern Paktia province, was killed along with six bodyguards when a bomb destroyed his car on Feb. 9.

Mr. Mansoor was the most senior Mujahedeen leader to die since the start of the 14-year Afghan war of resistance against the Soviet-installed government.

Mr. Ayanpoor, a former teacher, won fame as a commander of Mujahedeen forces in Badakshan in the war of resistance. He was about 50.

Afghan governor killed

## Arafat leaves Amman amid reports of bid for compromise deal

By P.V. Vivekanand  
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat left Amman Friday after talks with His Majesty King Hussein on the Middle East peace process and the Arab options in the crisis sparked by Israel's refusal to abide by a U.N. demand for the immediate repatriation of Palestinians it expelled

of 415 Palestinians.

Mr. Arafat flew out of Amman for a brief stopover in Cairo and then to Sudan a few hours before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was scheduled to arrive here in a bid to revive Arab-Israeli peace talks stalled over the expellee crisis.

Mr. Arafat rejected Resolution 799, but offered a compromise deal under which 101 of the expellees would be allowed to return immediately and the term of exile of the rest would be reduced to nine months.

The Security Council issued a statement early this month accepting the offer as a first step.

Despite public insistence on the immediate implementation of 799, Mr. Arafat and other mainstream leaders of the PLO were reportedly working on a compromise proposal which would enable the expellees to return home in phases in four months.

In comments to the local media, Mr. Arafat, chairman of

the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said his talks with King Hussein focused on the peace process and the Palestinian viewpoints.

Describing the talks as positive and fruitful, Mr. Arafat said the Palestinian position would be presented to Mr. Christopher by King Hussein.

In public statements, Mr. Arafat and other senior PLO officials have said that the Palestinian delegation would stay away from the peace talks unless Israel implements Security Council Resolution 799 of Dec. 18. The resolution calls on the Jewish state to immediately repatriate the expelled Palestinians.

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(Continued on page 5)

## Libya denies building chemical weapons plant

TUNIS (Agencies) — Libya's official news agency JANA denied Friday a U.S. newspaper report that the country was building an underground chemical weapons plant.

JANA's political commentator denies that the Great Jamahiriya (Libya) has any thought of manufacturing chemical weapons," the agency reported.

The denial fell short of an official statement by the Libyan authorities, who have not reacted to the report in Thursday's New York Times.

The Times said Libya was building an underground chemical weapons plant near Tarhuna, about 65 kilometres west of Tripoli, disguised as a water project. It said the plant would make and store poison gas.

The U.S. State Department also condemned Libya Thursday for what it said was its active chemical weapons programme. It said Libya was making plants to manufacture chemical weapons but did not confirm the details reported by the New York Times.

The newspaper said Libya was "preparing" at the time to sign the convention but added that it committed itself to an Arab countries' decision to not sign the convention until all the states in the region sign a treaty banning all weapons of mass destruction."

"Such collective Arab decision has been reported, although

Egypt and Syria insist that Israel's nuclear arms should be included

## Resignation of 2 ministers rocks Amato

ROME (R) — Italy's beleaguered Prime Minister Giuliano Amato suffered a devastating blow Friday when two members of his cabinet resigned. Finance Minister Giovanni Gorla quit after persistent slurs over his father, under suspicion in a vote-rigging inquiry, resigned after his father was arrested on corruption charges, a member of his Liberal Party Claudio Martelli quit under a cloud, amounting to the most serious crisis of Mr. Amato's turbulent eight-month premiership. Hours earlier, he had vowed that his government would not resign and held off the spectre of political chaos if Italy were to be forced into early elections. The resignation of Mr. Gorla, 49, a former Christian Democrat prime minister, was the more damaging, its impact amplified by its suddenness. He had long been a favourite target of the opposition and was unpopular in the country because of the chaotic and tasteless way he introduced a hated property tax last year. While household

# Middle East News

## U.N. worried over N. Somalia

**MOGADISHU** (Agencies) — The United Nations said Friday it was worried about security in a northern Somali town rocked by clashes between Canadian troops and rioters angry over their tribe's treatment by the continent.

"We have indications that the security situation in Belet Huen is certainly less than secure at this time and a cause of concern. It is deteriorating," said U.N. spokesman in Somalia Farouq Mawlawi.

At a news briefing, he also said two Somali gunmen were killed overnight near the western town of Afgoi by members of the multinational task force sent in December to protect food aid for the starving.

On Wednesday, Belet Huen, 300 kilometres north of the capital Mogadishu, was rocked by some of the worst riots since the deployment of the 33,000-strong force from 23 nations.

More than 300 rioters, mainly from the dominant Jigale tribe there, fought with Canadian troops stationed in the town. The rebels opened fire, killing one Somali and wounding three.

Mr. Mawlawi indicated that the U.S.-led force could do little immediately to pacify the area as troops were deployed only in the town and not in the north.

Giving more details of Wednesday's violence, he said grenades had been thrown at the offices of the British branch of

the Save the Children charity and the Somali Red Crescent. "We have no immediate reports of casualties," he said.

Colonel Serge Labbe, commander of the Canadian troops in Somalia, said Thursday the protest had been organised by one of the senior warlords in the town to protest against alleged unfair treatment of the Jigale by the contingent.

Col. Labbe said the tribe felt it had not received adequate food aid or fair representation of Canadian-created committees dealing with security and other matters.

Mr. Mawlawi announced that a panel charged with reconciling Somalia's 15 warring factions had been summoned to meet Ismail Kittani, U.N. special envoy for Somalia, for talks in Mogadishu Tuesday.

"There have been some consultations going on... and we are hopeful that the meeting will take place," he said.

The panel was set up after the 15 signed a ceasefire last month to end two years of civil war and anarchy that followed the 1991 ouster by rebels of Somali dictator Mohamed Siad Barre.

It has failed to meet since then after some of the factions accused others of violating the truce.

A sniper wounded an Australian soldier on foot patrol in a market Thursday.

Meanwhile, Marine Colonel Fred Peck announced that nearly

3,000 more American troops are to leave Somalia beginning next week.

U.S.-led forces have faced scattered violence since they arrived Dec. 9 to impose order and ensure that relief shipments reach people struck by war and famine. Four Americans have died, including two Marines killed by gunfire. None of the other 22 countries in the coalition has suffered a fatality.

No precise figures on Somalis killed are available, but the number is believed to exceed two dozen.

The sniper attack occurred in Baidoa and was the third shooting incident involving Australian forces in two days.

Australian Christopher Bay, 19, was hit in the shoulder as his patrol walked through a market area in the city, 190 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu, military officials said. He was flown to Mogadishu for treatment and released.

Twenty-four hours earlier, Australian soldiers killed one Somali and wounded two others in a firefight. They were the first casualties Australian troops have inflicted since the Vietnam war. Another Australian patrol also clashed with Somalis on Tuesday, but no casualties were reported.

Col. Peck announced Thursday that almost 3,000 American troops would leave Somalia starting next week, including 2,200 from the U.S. army's Third

battalion, 14th Infantry based at Fort Drum in New York and other units.

One withdrawal will include 25 army helicopters and four Marine helicopters and 250 air force personnel, Col. Peck said.

That will reduce the U.S. presence in Somalia to about 15,000 troops and support staff.

More than 14,000 soldiers from other countries are in Somalia as the United Nations prepares to approve a peacekeeping force to



A Somali boy plays with a toy gun next to an American soldier who is attaching a cord to his rifle to avoid it from being stolen (AFP photo)

assume control of the coalition from the United States.

Col. Peck said the U.S. reduction was unconnected to an upcoming Security Council debate on the Somalia mission.

"The remaining combined troop strength of about 30,000 will be more than adequate to accomplish all assigned missions," he said.

American forces in Somalia reached a high of 24,000 on Jan. 26, Col. Peck said, while the total

coalition peaked at 38,381. General Cevik Bir, the new Turkish commander of U.N. troops in Somalia, will arrive in Mogadishu Monday for talks with U.S. military officials on a handover of the multinational force, a U.N. spokesman said.

Gen. Bir is expected to take charge of up to 25,000 troops by April when most U.S. troops serving in Somalia are likely to have gone home.

## U.K. accuses Iran of outrageous conduct over Rushdie affair

LONDON (AP) — Britain, summoning Iran's top diplomat, Thursday accused Tehran of outrageous behaviour by renewing a death sentence on British author Salman Rushdie.

Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg delivered the protest during a 45-minute meeting with Iranian charge d'affaires Ghohamra Ansari, officials said.

"Mr. Hogg informed the charge d'affaires that this (renewal of the death sentence) was an outrageous infringement of Mr. Rushdie's rights and a violation of international law," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

"It was in effect an incitement to murder," it added.

The statement, to be passed to the Iranian government, was the toughest by Britain in a series of higher profile protests over Mr. Rushdie.

Mr. Rushdie and his supporters hailed what was his first public meeting with a Foreign Office minister as signaling a new, aggressive approach by Britain's conservative government.

In addition to the renewed death threats, an Iranian government charity has offered \$2 million, plus expenses, for Mr. Rushdie's death.

sanjani, the Foreign Office said. There was no immediate word on whether the letter was about Mr. Rushdie.

Mr. Rushdie has been under police guard since Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued the death sentence, on Feb. 14, 1989 after Mr. Rushdie published "The Satanic Verses." Many Muslims regard the novel as blasphemous.

Iran's current spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, marked the fourth anniversary of the sentence Sunday by saying it was irrevocable.

Mr. Hogg told the Iranian envoy that Britain found this "deeply disturbing."

Mr. Hogg invited Indian-born Rushdie, a naturalised Briton, to the Foreign Office earlier this month.

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## French fry compromise will make Israeli McDonald's possible

TEL AVIV (AP) — McDonald's got a break Wednesday when a compromise over French fries was worked out paving the way for the hamburger chain to open its first Israeli branch.

The agriculture ministry would help subsidise Israeli potato farmers so they could meet McDonald's standard, spokeswoman Datya Keinan told the Associated Press.

Islamic militants raked two para-military police vehicles and an army ambulance with gunfire Wednesday, killing three gendarmes and a soldier, Algerian police said.

Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tsuri had set junk food enthusiast's pulses racing Monday when he said he would not allow Israel's first McDonald's to import French fries frozen from Europe.

Imry Padan, who is setting up

the franchise, said the desire potato is not readily available in Israel.

But Yair Tamir, who represents Kentucky Fried Chicken in Israel, crowed that Mr. Padan was shirking his patriotic duty.

The requisite potatoes were available from a collective farm south of Tel Aviv. Mr. Tamir told the daily Yedioth Achronot — they just cost more than the imported product. Mr. Padan countered that at three times the price it was a legitimate issue.

Mr. Tsuri, a member of a collective farm himself, stood his ground. He reminded Israel Radio that until the schedule franchise opening, set for late 1993, was announced last year, McDonald's was perceived to have observed the Arab boycott of Israel. The company has vehemently denied the charge.

## Algerian premier seeks support from France

PARIS (Agencies) — Algerian Prime Minister Belaid Abdul Salam, on his first overseas trip since taking office in July, is seeking French support for his government as it battles an escalating terror campaign by Muslim extremists.

Mr. Abdul Salam had a working lunch Thursday with his French counterpart, Pierre Beregovoy, then conferred with President Francois Mitterrand.

"We noted that Franco-Algerian relations are developing well, and we hope this continues," Mr. Abdul Salam said afterwards. "The president conveyed France's wish to be at Algeria's side in any case where it could be useful... especially in this difficult period for our country."

Also on the agenda for Mr. Abdul Salam's two day trip were meetings with parliamentary leaders, executives and former Finance Minister Edouard Balladur, a favourite to succeed Mr. Deregovoy as premier after the conservative opposition's unexpected victory in legislative elections next month.

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had sought to oust Mr. Mitterrand.

## UNICEF to extend child nutrition programme in Jordan's rural areas

AMMAN (I.T.) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has agreed to a one-year extension of child nutrition programme for Jordan's rural areas. The programme, which began in 1992, benefits 2,500 children, addition to pregnant women. Agreement on the extension was reached at a meeting Thursday between Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, honorary chairwoman of the Queen Alia Jordan Welfare Fund (QAF) and Nigel Fisher, UNICEF representative in Jordan.

According to a statement, the programme will benefit children between the ages of six months and six years, in addition to nursing mothers and pregnant women.

Under the programme, UNICEF provides monthly food packages to the children, milk to 200 women and lentils, rice and tick-peas to women attending

health education sessions, the statement said.

It said people in the settlements of Rishie, Bir Matkour, Qatir, Qureigra, Rhaman, Manshir, Al Aal, Twiesih, Disha, Qweisreh Ram, Rashidieh, Saliehieh and others in Wadi Araba will benefit from the programme which will continue until Feb. 1994.

At the meeting Princess Basma and Mr. Fisher also reviewed UNICEF's 1993-1997 programmes for children in kindergartens, the statement said.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Fisher presented Princess Basma with two vehicles that will be used in a health education programme for the Queira and Wadi Araba regions.

The child nutrition programme is a cooperative effort of UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO).



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Thursday holds talks with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) representative in Jordan Nigel Fisher (second from left) on extending a child nutrition programme (Petra photo)

## House to debate committee report on impediments to agricultural development

AMMAN (I.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament will meet today in the presence of the Prime Minister and Cabinet members to continue discussion of amendments to the 1988

Agriculture Law.

At the meeting also, Minister of Public Works Saad Srour is

expected to deliver the govern-

ment's reply to a question about

the purchase of snow-clearing

equipment and their distribution

to snow-prone governorates.

Eight snow plows bought last

year are being distributed to the Irbid, Amman, Balqa and Karak governorates.

Other ministers scheduled to speak at the session are Minister of Information Mahmoud Sharif and Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubaibat.

Dr. Tubaibat will talk about the government's plan to create new garbage dumping sites and assistance to the town and village councils.

The House is also scheduled to

debate a report by the House Agricultural Committee which presents solutions to chronic problems impeding agricultural development.

Parliament sources said the report calls for the merger of different money-lending institutions which offer credit to farmers, creating a higher council to supervise the agricultural sector and its policies, organising an annual conference to discuss potential problems implementing agricultural policies, decisions re-

garding the manufacturing of agricultural implements and equipment in Jordan (including tractors), increased use of organic rather than chemical fertilisers and increasing controls over pesticide and fertiliser use.

The report also provides suggestions on land use for agricultural production, calls for constructing more dams and drawing up a national plan for the establishment of waste water treatment plants, food processing plants and tomato paste factories.

## Survey of pensioners finds them suffering

AMMAN (Petra) — A survey conducted by the Jordan News Agency (Petra), has found civil and military pensioners in Jordan suffering from economic, social and psychological problems.

The survey, conducted towards the end of 1992, revealed that Jordan has 114,500 retired men and women, accounting for 2.8 per cent of the total population. It said that of the total number of retired persons 71.2 per cent come from the military and the rest from the civil service.

The average age of retirees was 58; and females formed only 6.5 per cent according to the survey.

The survey revealed that 42 per cent of the pensioners had completed less than 21 years of active service and that 47 per cent support families of three to seven members.

More than half of the retirees receive less than JD 60 a month in pension and 77 per cent have no other source of income, the survey showed.

The survey indicated that only 16 per cent of the pensioners were honoured upon their retirement and 46 per cent had worked in their own towns or villages.

During their service with the government and the military, 70 per cent of the retirees received loans on their wages and salaries as their income was insufficient for their needs, the survey said.

More than 71 per cent of the pensioners said they find no one listening to their views and ideas now, and more than 56 per cent have turned to religion after retirement, the survey showed.

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## Five-year plan to enlarge role of private sector — Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Planning Secretary General Safwan Touqan Friday said the ministry is about to finalise the new five-year development plan, adding that the new plan will seek to reactivate and enlarge the role of the private sector in the national economy.

Dr. Touqan said the five-year plan will direct special attention to remedying imbalances and distortions in the national economy and focus on social sectors, with a view to curbing unemployment

and providing new job opportunities.

He also said the plan seeks to provide necessary services and focus more on the role of the private sector in the development process.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency (Petra), Dr. Touqan highlighted the important role of the ministry in formulating plans and development programmes and security financing for such plans.

He said the ministry draws up the economic and social plans and the sectoral projects, follows up on their implementation and assesses the completed work.

Dr. Touqan reviewed the efforts of the ministry ensuring the necessary funds for the projects included in the five-year development plan, particularly the service-related projects.

He added that the ministry also secures financing for the feasibility studies on these projects in the

areas of water supply, education, vocational training, energy, industry, tourism, and agriculture. Dr. Touqan said technical assistance is usually provided by the United Nations and its various organs.

He added that the ministry is in the process of establishing a national information centre on economic, social, technical and scientific areas.

The centre will be based at the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), he said.

## Bahrain meeting recommends teaching medicine in Arabic

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Aref Bataineh Friday returned to Amman following his participation in a conference on Arabising medical textbooks and terminology in the Arab World.

The conference, held in Bahrain, issued recommendations and resolutions urging the Arab states to encourage the teaching of medicine in Arabic.

Mr. Colombo supported the Crown Prince's view that the human dimension should be taken into consideration in the ongoing Middle East peace talks.

Earlier Thursday, Prince Hassan met with Pope John Paul II and the Vatican foreign minister for talks on the peace negotiations, bilateral relations and humanitarian issues.

The Crown Prince also met with the board of the Italian Industrialists Association and discussed Jordanian-Italian cooperation in industrial fields.

The two sides agreed that an Italian industrial delegation would visit Jordan to meet with Jordanian businessmen and be familiarised with the investment climate in Jordan.

elapses since Arab officials called for the Arabisation of medical books but no practical steps were taken so far.

Dr. Bataineh attributed this failure to apprehension on the part of medical schools to deal with a seemingly difficult but important mission.

Dr. Bataineh told participants to the three-day meeting that Arabisation will make it possible for Arab medical scholars and students to discuss medical topics in their mother tongue during their general meetings and conferences.

"By Arabising medical books, we do not only show our pride in our language and society, but because science is the right of all and a common heritage of mankind, it is therefore the right of every person to learn about medical advances in his or her own language," the minister said.

He also called for the translation of medical periodicals and textbooks.

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## Invitation For Bids Contract No. 10/93/ Central Ramtha Water Network and House Connections Project

The Water Authority of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation through the Ministry of Public Works and Housing/Government Tenders Directorate, GTD, "invites experienced contractors from member states of the European Community and contractors from Jordan who have been prequalified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing of Jordan as first grade water and sewerage, two second grade water and sewerage, second grade water and sewerage and second grade roads or second grade in water and sewerage and second grade in buildings to submit their offers for the supply and construction of Ramtha Water Network and House Connections Project. Those interested in participating in this tender are requested to contact the Government Tenders Directorate at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing Amman, Jordan to receive tender documents starting from 20/2/1993 and in accordance with the following terms:

### 1. Scope of work:

1. Ramtha Water Network and House Connection Project.
  - a. (DIP) Pipes diam. 3"-12" (48) km.
  - b. Polyethylene pipes, diam. 3/4", 1", 2" (92) km.
  - c. Galvanized steel pipes diam 1/2", 3/4" (32) km.
2. The project is partially financed by the European Investment Bank (EIB).
3. Each tender price (300) JD NON-refundable.
4. Last date for purchase of tender documents is Mar. 20, 1993.
5. Offers shall be submitted to the Government Tenders Directorate before 13:30 local time on Sat. Apr. 3, 1993.

Chairman, Central Tenders Committee  
Government Tenders Directorate

## U.S. TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE

A taxpayer service specialist from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service will be at the American Embassy in Amman on February 1B to 24 to assist U.S. taxpayers. A special tax seminar will be conducted on Sunday, February 21, at 2:00 p.m. in the United States Information Service auditorium at the embassy. Anyone who is interested will be welcome to attend. No reservation is necessary.

Individual assistance will be provided in the consular section of the embassy at the following times:

February 18	11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
February 21	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
February 22, 23, and 24	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Each taxpayer is advised to have a copy of his or her last filed return and to have all papers well organised and scheduled to the extent possible when appearing for assistance. Service will be on a first come/first serve basis for those without appointments. Individual appointments may be made by calling 820-101, extension 2061. Income tax forms and information booklets are now available in the consular section of the embassy.

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

Established 1975

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## Understanding is what matters

EVER SINCE U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced his plans to visit Jordan and a number of other countries in the Middle East, Jordanian leaders have been saying they will be ready to cooperate with him not only on efforts for Arab-Israeli peace but also on the question of regional stability and how to enhance it through political vision and advancing the cause of democracy and human rights.

On the latter point, His Majesty King Hussein was very clear when he established a commission for the advancement of human rights and democracy in Jordan and the Arab World only last week.

"The aim is to enhance the Jordanian democratic experience and to liberate our intellectual and creative capabilities towards the goal of establishing a comprehensive paradigm for political, social and cultural democracy," the King had told members of the commission, stressing that the long-term objective was to "crystallise the vision for a future phase from which will emanate an overall Arab movement rekindling the Arab renaissance."

Many of us here in Jordan have consistently maintained that it was not only the Kingdom's position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait that had angered the leaders of the oil-rich Arab Gulf countries, leading to the present-day alienation from them, but it was also the King's decision to opt for democracy that upset those and other regimes in the region, including probably Israel, which does not want to see Arab "rivals" for its "democratic" image in the eyes of the West. The fact now that the King continues to insist on writing "Arab history with liberty and freedom rather than oil" means that he sees a new role for Jordan to play in the unipolar world led by Democratic President Bill Clinton and his colleagues.

Mr. Christopher's State Department has already made it known that the new U.S. policies will be largely determined by other countries' respect for human rights and efforts to democratic their systems, and has in fact demonstrated its willingness and ability to support Jordan in this regard.

But how far Washington is willing to go in backing Jordan's quest for peace and democracy in the whole region and how any joint effort can help the Kingdom stay the course and gain strength in the process is an open question that will likely come up in the course of the secretary's important talks here.

On the other intricate subject of the peace process, Jordan is ready to do what is required to keep hopes alive, even though we are not necessarily optimistic about the chances of breakthroughs with the Israelis, given the Rabin government's proclivity to treat the Palestinians in the same way its Likud predecessors did. But it is up to the Palestinian people and its legitimate leadership to negotiate and tell Mr. Christopher what they want. If the PLO decides it is ready to accept the compromise formula brokered by the U.S. on the expulsion crisis, this is fine with us. The Jordanians generally believe, however, that they cannot accept efforts to partition and compartmentalise U.N. resolutions, some of which were implemented by force against Iraq and others, which, like 242, have to be enforced in full if there is to be a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

Furthermore, the Secretary of State will no doubt hear that the Jordanians want from the U.S. stronger and more sincere efforts to bring Iraq back into the family of nations and to end as soon as possible the painful sanctions against the Iraqi people. All regimes in the area, and the Gulf in particular, have not only to respect international law and legitimacy but also learn to coexist in peace and harmony in order to ensure regional stability, progress and prosperity for their peoples. If they all do that, including the regime in Baghdad of course, they will find in the centrist Jordanian position a block to build on and in Jordan a friend who is always ready to cooperate and help.

Mr. Christopher and his delegation are most welcome among friends in this country, and we hope his talks here will be most productive and useful to peace, progress and friendship.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily described His Majesty King Hussein's speech to the faculty and students of Yarmouk University Tuesday as a national voice encouraging democracy and freedom for all Arab citizens. Indeed, the King's words concerning the need to grant all Arabs their freedom and their rights came at a time when the Arab World witnesses Arab states whose peoples exercise no rights. Instead, these peoples are geared to applaud the leaders' desires and orders, said the daily. The paper also said that certain Arab leaders, who deny their people their rights, try to escape their responsibilities towards the citizenry by choosing to alienate themselves from the nation. These rulers imagine that their dignity could be respected outside their nation and not through actions which can safeguard pan-Arab interests. The paper said that King Hussein's words have now reached all parts of the Arab World and his brave stand in support of the oppressed and the human rights of Arab peoples is valued and appreciated. Indeed, through his wise leadership and national stands, King Hussein has gained the pride of the nation, the paper continued. Al Ra'i also appreciated that the King has expressed his deep respect and support for the creative and skilled amongst our people, with His Majesty urging educational institutions to march ahead with programmes and plans that build a population equipped for a brighter future.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that the peace process remains in deep crisis as a result of the Israeli decision not to repatriate all of the evictees who are now stranded in southern Lebanon. This situation persists even as American Secretary of State Warren Christopher prepares for his meetings with the leaders of Israel and the Arab countries and at a time when Yitzhak Rabin remains intransigent, the writer noted. Needless to say, the Palestine question continues to be at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict and without a fair and permanent solution for the Palestinian people's future nothing can be gained on the other fronts, Rimawi concluded. He said that if Israel is really inclined to achieve peace with the Arabs, Tel Aviv should first settle the Palestine question and give back the usurped Palestinian rights and homeland. But should the United States leave the expellees question unresolved while directing its attention solely towards resuming the peace talks, Washington will be leaving a ticking time bomb in the region, he added. The Arab parties boycotted the last day of the eighth meeting with the Israelis in Washington in protest against the decision to deport the Palestinians and have demanded that Resolution 799 be implemented in full, Rimawi noted.

## Accepting the affliction?

By Dr. As'ad Abdul Rahman

THE CURRENT visit by the new American Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, to some Middle Eastern countries carries many meanings and will lead to important results, positive or negative. In addition to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Kuwait, Jordan and Israel, Mr. Christopher might also include a surprise visit to Lebanon, unannounced beforehand, in keeping with American security considerations.

Among the special meanings of this visit is that the choice of the Middle East to be his first trip abroad signals a certain message: that in dealing with internal issues, the U.S. will not ignore world problems, and that President Bill Clinton's administration is determined to continue with the political settlement of the tripartite Arab-Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of several considerations. The first consideration is that the area is important, sensitive and volatile. The second is that Mr. Christopher's "preventive diplomacy" is being put into practice to preempt any explosions. The third is to stress the continued special role of the two influential Arab states of the region, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, not to mention the special message of support for Kuwait (added to the programme as an afterthought) directed to both Iraq and Iran. But what about the special meanings of this visit for the political settlement?

After his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, on the eve of this visit, Mr. Christopher sounded less optimistic than Mr. Peres who talked about two aims of the expected visit. The first aim, according to Mr. Peres, is the continuation of the peace talks and the second is the adoption of a new agenda for the talks. The secretary, however, was more restrained when he assigned, at least on the face of it, more humble tasks to his mission: fact finding — as if the U.S. does not know all about the area — and to get to know the leaders of the region and their opinions at first hand to evaluate the situation in order to push the peace process forward, "without expecting immediate approval," for continuing the bilateral and multilateral talks, "which will hopefully start again after this visit."

Secretary Christopher knows, of course, that the American-Israeli agreement

concerning the Palestinian evictees, imposed on the Security Council, has exasperated feelings of anger among the Arabs towards the increasing political hypocrisy and the tendency to apply double standards in the American Middle East policy. How could this visit, surrounded as it is by all the different scenario, rumours and "information", be successful?

More than one scenario about the outcome of this visit is emerging. This is tied to the report by official Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi that Israel prove its good intentions by actual deeds in improving human rights practices in the occupied territories and by specifying a timetable for implementing self-rule for the Palestinians. Some observers expect Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to announce a marked easing of oppressive measures against the Palestinians in the occupied territories, in line with Palestinian, Arab and international demands upon Israel to comply with the Fourth Geneva Convention and human rights in general. Others expect Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to announce another "generous gesture" towards the secretary's visit by allowing more expellees to go back home, by shortening their ex-

pulsion period or by putting them in a military camp in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon until their time is up. Some Arabs and Israelis, inside and outside Israel, expect — or demand — that Israel take the initiative of opening a direct dialogue with the PLO, following the recent Knesset decision of lifting the ban on contacts with the Palestinian organization. Yet others expect "new Israeli concessions" in the Palestinian autonomy question or withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Some even expect the American administration itself to revive direct contacts with the PLO, which obviously, directs the Palestinian negotiating team and especially after the PLO leadership in Tunis has shown "more moderation" than the representatives from the occupied territories led by Haider Abdul Shafiq.

Rumours also would have the expellees spend the remainder of their time on an extended religious pilgrimage to the Islamic holy sites in Saudi Arabia.

All these rumours and "information" brandished about are but an expression of the objectives impotence, and hence dilemma, facing the PLO in going back to the negotiating table before a solution, or a compensating formula acceptable to the present and future generations in the region.

Related to this argument, there is another one leading the moderates to more frustration and pessimism. If the world community is unable to execute international legitimacy as expressed in the simple and straightforward Resolution 799, how will it ever be able to execute a more ambiguous and complex resolution, such as 242?

According to the Madrid formula, it was agreed to negotiate for 21.5 per cent of the historical land of Palestine. So, in the words of journalist Joseph Samaha, "we are requested by a moderate Israeli government to negotiate about a quarter of authority over a quarter of the people in a quarter of the land" and now we have to accept the return of only a quarter of the expellees. In view of all these conditions and developments, and particularly in view of Mr. Rabin and the new American administration's policies, a substantial number of moderate Arabs (including Palestinians) are reminded of the Arab saying: "We accept the affliction ... but the affliction does not accept us."

The writer is director of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation and member of Palestine National Council (PNC).



## THE WEEK IN PRINT

### U.S. should recognise linkage between peace talks and implementation of 799

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE visit of the American Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East region, the continued plight of the Palestinian expellees in southern Lebanon, the situation in Iraq and a host of domestic issues were given prominence by the local Jordanian press during the past week.

One Christopher discovered America: "the new world", 500 years ago and another Christopher now embarks to discover the Middle East (the old world), read an article in Al Dustour daily by columnist Mohammad Kawash.

In a statement prior to his departure for the region, Mr. Christopher was quoted as saying that his tour here was an exploratory mission to understand the viewpoints of the different parties to the conflict.

What the Arabs can say to Mr. Christopher, said the writer, is: "come and behold our spilled blood in the street and the atrocities that have been going on for ages at the hands of the Israeli occupation forces."

Sawt Al Shaab said that Mr. Christopher's visit could mark a turning point in the peace process if the U.S. secretary of state manifests a genuine desire to understand the Arab parties' views. But, conversely, his mission could be obstructed if the Palestinian expellees problem remains unresolved.

The Arab capitals Mr. Christopher is visiting have already displayed apprehension about Washington's moves and concern over the Americans' lack of desire to see Resolution 799 implemented, said Sawt Al

Shaab. The paper noted that the Arabs are reluctant to resume the peace talks, afraid that Washington would play the same gambit over the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338.

Mr. Christopher arrives in the Middle East with a clear intention to inquire as to whether the Arab countries involved in the peace process desire to resume the negotiations with Israel at this point said Mohammad Kharroub, a columnist in Al Ra'i newspaper. This part and parcel of a concerted U.S.-Israeli diplomatic offensive launched with the aim of breaching the Arab parties' united stand vis-a-vis the talks with Israel, he said.

The writer argued that Mr. Christopher will be presenting his inquiry while noting that the U.N. Security Council has approved of Israel's bid to return 101 Palestinians immediately and the rest by the end of the year. The Arabs, he said, should provide a unified response to this demand because the ball is in their court. The Arab parties must give a realistic and applicable reply that will simultaneously help the peace process continue and secure the Palestinians' return to their homeland, he concluded.

Salameh Etkur of Sawt Al Shaab cast a gloomy picture on the expellees affair, noting that Mr. Christopher would not bear a single word in any Arab capital defying the U.S. call for the resumption of the peace negotiations with Israel. Arab leaders might altogether completely ignore the expellees

question and Resolution 799, which they consider as secondary in importance, the writer noted.

Secretary Christopher's visit to the region has no meaning except to emphasise the success of Yitzhak Rabin and the collusion of certain Arab and Palestinian sources. The writer concluded that the Palestinians and the Arabs at large are the net losers because Washington has succeeded in diluting and weakening the Arab stand and U.N. Resolution 799.

Saleh Al Qallab demanded from the Arab parties an emphasis upon certain principles and firm stands in their talks with Mr. Christopher. The columnist said in Al Dustour that the Arab parties should make it clear that the Palestine question remains at the heart of the whole Arab-Israeli conflict and that no single Arab party can reach a separate solution with Israel. Either all Arab parties should take part in the peace negotiations or none at all, be stressed.

Commenting on the U.N. Security Council's decision to change Resolution 799, Sawt Al Shaab daily said that by adopting an amendment to that resolution the council has undermined its own credibility and further encouraged the Israelis to disregard any future resolutions. The "paper" added that the amendment, which came as a result of U.S. influence and pressure on the council, was a victory for the Rabin government, which refuses to comply with the requirements of international legitimacy.

Two months have passed

since the start of the Palestinian expellees' ordeal in southern Lebanon and nothing has been done to bring them home, said Al Dustour daily. The past two months clearly have proven the total impotence of the Security Council even in implementing its own resolution and have demonstrated the failure, of any attempt, even on the part of the U.N. secretary general, to reverse this situation.

The U.N. secretary general has already sent three envoys to Israel and the Arab countries to discuss the problem, noted Al Dustour. The past two months have made manifest to the whole world that Israel is permitted to act above international law and that no power on earth either can or is willing to force the Jewish state to succumb to the will of the world community, the paper commented.

In the view of Taber Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, certain Arab parties, in addition to course to Israel and the United States, have benefited from the amendment of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799. The writer said that certain Arab states involved in the peace process used the expellees' plight as a trump card with which they hope to pressure the Americans and improve their bargaining position for their own selfish interests. The writer believes the Palestinians should remain adamant in their position and demand the full implementation of the council's resolution.

Tackling the ongoing atrocities committed by Mr. Rabin and his government against the

Palestinians, Dr. Ghazi Zureiqi said in Al Ra'i that Premier Rabin seems to have decided to terminate the Palestinian intifada at any cost. The writer went on to note that the killing of Palestinians, the demolition of their homes and the eviction of activists all furnish images of the Israeli plan being implemented with support from the United States. Israel, he argues, does not want substantive peace with the Arabs, who seek to regain their lands and rights. Instead, the regime aims for a peace that is not founded on either religious or ethical grounds.

A columnist in Al Dustour attacked a proposed amendment to the country's education law which calls for segregating male and female students. The writer, Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour daily, said that such segregation was bound to create more problems for a Jordanian society which already suffers from poverty and unemployment. Apart from the fact that such an amendment will be impossible to execute, separating males and females is an idea that is not founded on either religious or ethical grounds, he noted.

The writer believes that the United Nations has to intervene and put an end to Israel's massacre of Palestinians and eviction of Arab peoples from their homeland. The writer believes that Israel, well assured that the Arab countries are bound to resume peace negotiations with her, has a free hand to carry out atrocities in the occupied lands.

Fahed Al Fanek discussed the situation of Iraq in the post-war era noting that the Iraqis have benefited from the sanctions imposed on them over the past three years by relying upon themselves for reconstruction and more food production. The columnist, who writes in Al Ra'i daily, said that the Iraqis have achieved a miracle and aborted the sanctions imposed unjustly by the U.S.-led coalition and succeeded in pursuing recon-

struction under enforced antarcticy. In spite of the sanctions the Iraqis opened a 565 kilometre long river, rebuilt whole districts, reinstated their devastated communications and factories and produced food on more than two million hectares of land, observed the writer.

Rajaa Abu Ghazaleh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, described as a manifestation of the underside of the war.

With the increase in the ferocity of the imperialist countries' pressure on the Arab nation,

the siege imposed by men on women in Arab society has likewise been increasing, said the writer.

The writer said that the imperialist nations reached a high standard of development after liberating women and giving them a share in the construction

carrying out of development.

## LETTERS

### Traits of honesty for here

To the Editor:

I believe that in the election of President Bill Clinton, the American people were voicing their desire for change. They hoped that issues which had festered on for years would be tackled and a new breath of youth, honesty and integrity was envisioned. In some aspects, the American public has not been disappointed. Hillary Clinton has been appointed to study ways to overhaul the United States' health programmes, and President Clinton, in his State of the Union Address, has proposed new taxes and cuts in government expenditures to lower the budget deficit. This desire to tackle issues head-on is highly commendable.

What we in the Middle East would like to see are these same commendable traits of honesty and determination applied to this part of the world. The United States is signatory to the Fourth Geneva Convention and as such to Article 49 of the convention relative to the Protection of Civilians in Time of War, which states: "Individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory to the territory of the occupying power or to that of any other country, occupied by force, are prohibited, regardless of their motive."

There has yet to be any law, convention, treaty or act which contravenes this noble article. The United Nations Security Council acknowledged this when they passed Resolution 799 calling on the Israeli government to immediately return to the occupied territories the 400 Palestinians expelled from their homes. Until there is such a document, universally accepted, which states that the Geneva convention relative to the Protection of Civilians in Time of War applies to all peoples except Palestinians, it is the obligation of all states signatory to the Fourth Geneva Convention to honour their legal and moral obligations in full. Any attempt by the Israeli government, or any other government, to reinterpret or circumvent these obligations, discredits those governments and makes a mockery of their justice system.

Therefore, we urge the visiting U.S. secretary of state, Warren Christopher, to see to it that the same determination that President Clinton has demonstrated in tackling arduous domestic issues will now be applied to resolving the legal and human rights of the expelled Palestinians. With this solution, and demonstration of the integrity of the United States, resumption and success of the Middle East peace talks will be only a matter of time.

Karen Asfour,  
Amman

## 242 vs. 799

To the Editor,

FOR more than two months now, Israel still refuses to comply with Security Council Resolution 799 concerning the Palestinian evictees in southern Lebanon. But the

## Prince Hassan hopes for U.S. fairness

(Continued from page 1)  
received any compensation. He added that the international community has so far failed to deal seriously with the 350,000 refugees who have come home to Jordan after their eviction from Kuwait.

On Jordan's democratic experience, Prince Hassan said some people thought what happened at Jordan was a rebellion, "but I think they should ask themselves why Jordan opened the trouble box." We will not allow instability to affect our democratic experience."

Asked whether Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would respect U.N. resolutions, Prince Hassan said it was "a matter of time," and stressed that Iraq respects the U.N. resolutions.

In this regard, Prince Hassan stressed the need for opening a

## Arafat leaves Amman after talks

(Continued from page 1)

PLO sources in Amman said the proposal was tabled by Egypt and had the support of the Meretz bloc, a coalition partner in Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government.

Mr. Arafat, who was presented the proposal two weeks ago, discussed the deal with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak before he flew to Amman Thursday. PLO officials said:

"There are several conditions that Israel has to fulfil as part of the proposed deal," said one official. "It entails a firm commitment that all the expellees would be returned to the occupied territories in the next four months, starting with an immediate batch of at least 140, another 140 next month and the rest before the beginning of June."

Israel expelled 415 Palestinians in December; 19 of them were allowed to return either because their expulsions were said to have been made in error or they were sick. The expellees remain in a tent camp in South Lebanon between Israeli and Lebanese army lines.

Under the proposed deal, the expellees would be moved to Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon as an interim measure.

There was no immediate indication of how Mr. Rabin was viewing the compromise, and

analysts said the Israeli prime minister appeared to be reserving comment until he met with Mr. Christopher this week.

The expellees, accused by Israel as hardcore organisers of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and Islamic Jihad groups, have rejected any piecemeal solution to their plight (see separate story).

During his visit to Amman, Mr. Arafat also met with Faisal Husseini, head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks, and Saeb Erakat, a negotiator.

Mr. Husseini and Dr. Erakat returned to the occupied territories Friday to await Mr. Christopher, whom they would be meeting Monday in occupied Jerusalem.

Mr. Husseini and Dr. Erakat "have been given a very clear Palestinian position to be presented to the U.S. secretary," said a Palestinian source. "It is simple: the course of the peace process depends on a quick solution to the expulsion crisis and the U.S. should exert all efforts to ensure that 799 is implemented."

The main concern of the Arabs is that if Israel was allowed to twist Resolution 799 to make it suit its purposes, then the validity and implementation of earlier Security Council resolutions

## Egypt, U.S. to seek talks resumption

(Continued from page 1)

the United States was committed to the peace process.

In his will in the Middle East, Mr. Christopher hopes to persuade Palestinians and Israelis to resume peace talks which have been suspended since the Dec. 17 expulsions of the Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Before the Muhabarak-Christopher talks, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat stopped at Cairo airport for one hour to meet presidential adviser Osama Al Baz on his way from Amman to Khartoum.

A senior PLO official said Mr. Arafat was considering a proposal on the expellees. (See separate story.)

If the crisis was not settled and compromises were not made by the Arabs and Israel, a senior U.S. official warned Thursday, President Clinton might consider MidEast peacemaking to a back burner.

"There are important opportunities here that should not be missed by the parties," Mr. Christopher said on his arrival in Cairo. "We have come to the region ready to do our best, and we will be assessing whether the parties are ready to do theirs."

A senior U.S. official told reporters en route from Washington that the Arab-Israeli conflict "can't continue to have a high priority if we're pushing against a closed door."

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, added: "You have to have some indication of willingness on their part to make some of the tough decisions."

Mr. Muhabarak met here Wednesday with Mr. Arafat.

Jordanian Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif said Friday: "We fear that if the problem of the deportees is not solved, the Palestinian delegation may not go to the peace talks. In such a case, the whole process may be hampered."

Saudi Arabia's defence minister, Prince Sultan, stressed that the kingdom wants "implementation of all existing (United Nations) resolutions" whether they pertain to the Gulf, Israel or Bosnia-Herzegovina. If they are not, "the big powers and the peace-loving nations in the Security Council lose their credibility," he told Italian reporters who accompanied Italian Defence Minister Salvatore Ando on a trip to Saudi Arabia Thursday.

Syrian government newspaper Al Thawra warned that "Washington's one-sided policy and unlimited bias towards the Israeli side" would encourage Israel to "put obstacles in the way of peace."

human rights summit, which will be held Vienna in June, is an integral part of the preparation for a "human file," which will be presented to the Clinton administration.

Asked about Jordan's expectations from the new U.S. administration, Prince Hassan said Jordan expects a revaluation of the peace process, be it bilateral talks or multilateral talks, and to take into consideration the interaction and integration of the titles and issues. The Crown Prince stressed the need for an evaluation aimed at finding an identity to this region.

"I think the governments of this region would be ready to move from the concept of favoured bilateral relation as to the concept of regional cooperation that there has been external indications converging with the aspirations of the people in this region," Prince Hassan said.

He pointed out that Jordan's preparations to participate in the

region would be ready to move from the concept of regional cooperation that there has been external indications converging with the aspirations of the people in this region," Prince Hassan said.

would also be jeopardised.

In departure comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Arafat said he had suggested that the Arab parties to the peace talks with Israel hold a coordination meeting after Mr. Christopher concludes his trip to the Middle East.

A French newspaper meanwhile quoted Mr. Arafat as saying that the resumption of the peace talks would depend on whether Mr. Christopher could convince Israel to bring home the Palestinian expellees.

"Negotiations will not resume without a solution to the deportees problem," he told the French daily Le Figaro.

"In order to know whether there is a way out, we must wait until Mr. Christopher has found an agreement with Rabin," he said in the interview published on Friday.

Mr. Arafat said Israel's offer to bring back 101 of the expellees fell short of his demands for an overall agreement.

"I am talking about an overall agreement that would allow all deportees to return," he said. Mr. Arafat said it was too early to assess the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton which took office last month.

"The U.S. Jewish lobby won more posts in this administration than in the previous one. Yet, we need to wait before having an opinion on Bill Clinton," he said.

Mr. Arafat compared Israeli proposals for Palestinian self-rule with Gruyere cheese in which Palestinians were left eating the holes.

"Israelis offered to cut up occupied territories like a piece of Gruyere: the cheese for them, the holes for us," he said.

He said the proposals were for a so-called grey area under joint administration, a zone which Palestinians could only get near to, and a red area totally off limits.

"It is impossible to accept such an agreement. It is worse than South Africa's Bantustans," he said.

"I make no apologies about doing that," he said. "It seems to me it gives a context to what you are trying to achieve. It's also a reminder to build some structures that are enduring."

Mr. Christopher visit to Egypt came as special U.S.-Cairo relations are likely to be tested by budget cuts, Egyptian and U.S. officials said.

"It's no coincidence that President Bill Clinton sent me to Egypt as the first stop on my first journey outside the United States as secretary of state," Mr. Christopher told reporters upon arrival.

"We are proud to count Egypt as a close and important friend of the United States," Mr. Christopher said, heaping praise on the political leadership which helped build the Gulf war alliance against Iraq and is now mediating between the Arabs and Israel.

While both sides stress publicly that the new Clinton administration wants no change in special ties, Egyptian officials and Cairo-based U.S. diplomats are privately preparing for a cut in aid which could ultimately weaken them.

Egypt has been a firm U.S. ally nearly 20 years, receiving \$2.2 billion a year in aid by an act of Congress, more than any other country except its peace partner Israel.

The U.S. embassy in Cairo is one of the biggest in the world and Egypt hosts a 40,000-strong American community, many of them businessmen and their families linked to aid projects.

But Washington's expansive foreign aid programme, fuelled in the cold war by a need to outdo the now defunct Soviet Union in winning friends around the world, is high on the hit list of Mr. Clinton's budget choppers.

About \$1.4 billion a year goes straight into the coffers of the Egyptian armed forces and is not publicly accounted for.

During the Gulf war, the U.S. wiped out \$7 billion in military debt and Western economists say political pressure from Washington is now holding off Egypt's other Western creditors, who are anxious that economic reforms they backed with \$10 billion of debt forgiveness are not going as planned.

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## 'Greatest boxing show on Earth' set for today

MEXICO CITY (R) — What promoter Don King modestly described as "the greatest boxing show on Earth" will take place Saturday with four championship matches in front of what may be the biggest crowd in the sport's history.

As many as 130,000 people are expected to fill the giant Aztec Stadium, without most of them looking forward to the bout in which World Boxing Council (WBC) super-lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez (44-0, 72 kgs), a Mexican hero, will defend his title against number two ranked contender Greg Haugen (32-4, 16 kgs) of the United States.

"We're another first in boxing history. There has never been that kind of attendance," King shouted in a news conference Thursday.

Pre-fight estimates were that another 400 million boxing fans were expected to watch the fights worldwide on pay-per-view television.

According to the Guinness Book of world records, the largest paid crowd in boxing history was 120,757 at the September 23, 1982, heavyweight title fight in Philadelphia between George Foreman and Jack Dempsey. Michael Astley, spokesman for Don King Productions, said more than 100,000 tickets, ranging in price from \$1.80 to \$850, had already been sold for the



Julio Cesar Chavez of Mexico (right) sends Marty Jakobowski of the U.S. down, on his way to capturing the WBC super-lightweight title.

Saturday card.

Some reports here have said that Chavez was padding the gate by giving away as many as 30,000 tickets, but he told reporters he has handed out only 4,000.

Along with the Chavez-Haugen fight, WBC super-welterweight champion Terry Norris (33-9, 19 kgs) will defend his title against International Boxing Federation (IBF) welterweight champion

Maurice Blocker (34-2, 18 kgs). Both are from the U.S.

Dan Goosen, promoter for Norris, upped the ante on the Norris-Blocker fight when he offered \$10 million to the winner of the Chavez-Haugen bout to fight his man.

"We want to prove who is the best fighter in the world, pound-for-pound," he said. If Blocker beats Norris, the same offer would be made for Blocker to fight the Chavez-Haugen winner, Goosen said.

Most of the attention here is on Chavez, whose standing is such that Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari visited him this week at his training site.

Chavez said he is "the best condition of my life" and that he expected to beat Haugen easily.

Even though Haugen, a triple world champion, is the underdog, he was talking tough at the news conference.

"I'm in the great condition and I'm done talking. I'm tired of listening to your bull," he told Chavez.

In the pre-fight build-up, Haugen has been bugged by charges that he was prejudiced against Mexicans, but when questioned by a reporter he denied it.

"That's Don and Julio's bull to sell tickets, to put money in their pockets... I haven't disgraced the Mexican people. I mean I'm half-Indian myself," he said angrily.

## Mighty Milan lose, but discount result

MADRID (R) — Mighty AC Milan suffered a rare defeat in a friendly soccer match against Athletic Bilbao in Spain, but immediately discounted the result.

Milan, who have stretched their record-breaking unbeaten run in the Italian League to 55 games, crashed 2-0 to Athletic Bilbao.

Athletic scored twice in the last five minutes of the friendly, in which the Spanish side used 19 players and Milan had to make do without eight of their top international stars including their Dutch trio and French striker Jean-Pierre Papin.

"We played against 19 different footballers against two teams. This match doesn't count," said Milan manager Fabio Capello, whose side have not been beaten in the league since May 1991.

The Italian champions looked to have held on for a draw with just five minutes left before Athletic midfielder Carlos Garcia slammed a powerful shot into the back of the Milan net from near the edge of the box.

Three minutes later the dejected Italian goalkeeper Sebastiano Rossi made a ghastly error, casually trying to kick away a gentle back-pass from Milan captain Franco Baresi, only to see the ball slip off his boot and swerve into the goal.

Athletic's German coach Jupp Heynckes was jubilant after the game. "It's true we played 19 men, but Milan are proud of being the best team in the world. What should it matter to them that a poor team like Athletic puts out all its players?"

Athletic are eighth in the Spanish League.

### SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Navratilova makes winning return to Paris

PARIS (R) — Martina Navratilova played in Paris for the first time for four years, dispatching German Katja Oeljeklaus 6-1 6-3 in the first round of the French Indoor Open. "I'm pretty tired," said the 37-year-old second seed. "It's the first time I have played three successive tournaments in three different continents, Tokyo, Chicago and Paris." Top seed Monica Seles, who beat Navratilova in the Chicago final Sunday, struggled through her second round match against Austrian Judith Wiesner before winning 6-3 6-4. It was her 32nd successive victory.

#### One out, two left in round-the-world race

PARIS (R) — One of three catamarans trying to sail round the world in 80 days a \$1 million prize dropped off Friday after damaging a float in Antarctic waters. Skipper Olivier de Kersauson radioed that the right float of his hi-tech catamaran Charal was ripped under the water line and he was now sailing slowly towards Cape Town. The ship may have hit a block of ice while sailing among icebergs southwest of the southern tip of Africa in order to skirt the Antarctic towards Cape Horn. Many yachting experts believe the challenge is impossible. The round-the-world yachting record is 109 days.

#### Treviso, Bologna win home games

MILAN (AP) — Benetton Treviso defeated Olympiakos Athens and Knorr Bologna downed Maccabi Tel Aviv in home games of the European Basketball Cup for clubs and stepped closer to qualification for the final round of the tournament. In Treviso, Italian centre Stefano Rusconi pumped in 19 points as he led Benetton, the defending league champion, to a 75-67 victory. His Croatian teammate Toni Kukoc added 15 points, despite an unimpressive performance. Zarko Pasjalj was the leading scorer on the Greek side, with 29 points. Victory lifted Treviso to second in the Group B standings, with 20 points, and a record of 10-3. Spain's Real Madrid is the group leader with 11-1. Knorr, the current Italian League leader, is now fourth in the Group A standings, with 6-5, two points behind Paok Salonika, which leads the group with 7-4.

#### Oman withdraw from World Cup eliminations

MUSCAT (AP) — The Omani Football Federation has decided to withdraw from the World Cup eliminations, the local press reported Friday. The federation took the decision not to participate in the eliminations scheduled for June at a meeting Thursday led by its chairman, Scoud Ibn Hamad Al Kawabi, the daily Al Watan said. Neither Al Watan nor other published reports gave the reason, which apparently was an assessment of the federation that the national team was not up to standard.

#### Drunk driver hits cycle racers

OJUELOS, Mexico (AP) — A drunk driver plowed into a group of international cyclists competing in the road Mexico '93 race, injuring at least four cyclists, race officials said. There were conflicting reports about the number of injured racers and the extent of their injuries. The 195-kilometres (121-mile) fifth stage from San Luis Potosi to Leon was annulled and race organizers were meeting to determine whether to cancel the entire, 15 day, 2,035 kilometre (1,262-mile) event.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH  
©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

#### ACROSS

- Q-1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
#J9762 VS8 OAK1083 #7  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♦ Pass 1 NT Pass  
3 ♦ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?  
A.—Your holding in the minor suits do not instill great confidence in a no-trump game. Since you can't raise hearts with only three-card support, the only option open is a false preference to three spades, and await further developments.

- Q-2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
#J9762 VS8 OAK1083 #7  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
Pass Pass 1 ♦ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?

- A.—Yes, if you bid four spades you rate to make it. However, there are all sorts of hands partner could hold, including a number of minimums which would yield 12 tricks. Highlight your source of tricks by bidding two diamonds then jump to game in spades at your next turn.

- Q-3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
#A87632 VAK9 OAK3 #7  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♦ Pass 1 NT Pass ?

- What do you bid now?  
A.—An awkward hand, to be sure. You have a poor suit, but your overall strength, with all prime values, is rather potent. You have to tell a white lie about something, and we opt for suit quality. Jump to three spades.

- Q-4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
#K98 VS8 OAK4 #AKQJ10  
Your right-hand opponent opens with a weak two hearts. What action do you take?  
A.—Give this hand to a panel of experts and we're sure they'll come up with several different answers. We feel your best chance for game is in no trump, and therefore, we would choose to overcall two no trump.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** If your motivating force issues from a place that supports the common weal you could be spotlighted now. Members with special needs may seem conspicuous.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19)  
Your morning to think about good friends and what you can do to aid them and your relationship with them while later you retire and details to make successful.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Consider all aspects of what your mate desires and use most unique methods for obtaining them; then you will be able to put in effect a course highly effective.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) The daytime can be well spent at whatever you to date interests that most motivate you and tonight thoroughly enjoy home pleasures.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You have an excellent formula now for adding to your present assets so devise a course of action early; tonight get into the mundane aspects.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You have a definite ambition for making an important goal workable so perfect this plan of action then be direct tonight in working out the practical part.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) This is the day when you see early a way to plan a campaign by which to gain your most original objectives; tonight get the aid of good friends.

## Maradona comeback poses questions for Argentina



Diego Maradona

and fast enough for tough World Cup qualifiers and the 1994 finals in the United States.

Argentine substitute striker Alberto Acosta said: "(Maradona) told me that playing in the national team was the spiritual injection he needed to return to the top. He admitted he lacked the rhythm of top competition."

Commentsators remarked that Maradona, who's Argentine and he's greater than Pele."

Certain doubts, however, have tempered the euphoria of his return with fans wondering whether, after fading in the second half, Maradona will be fit

to play again.

Commentsators remarked that Leo Rodriguez, the Atletico playmaker who stepped down for Maradona, would have brought

more out of the lightning fast strikers Gabriel Batistuta and Claudio Caniggia.

Tenerife's Fernando Redondo, Argentina's rising star, missed the match through injury and Basile picked three ball-winning type of midfielders to accompany Maradona, reducing the team's creative options.

There was a consensus in the changing room that Maradona had acquitted himself well.

"Maradona showed he is a master, he did everything right," Basile said.

Brazil's striker Careca said: "Diego is a player from another world. I know what it's like to play alongside him (at Napoli) and I have no doubt he will be of real importance for the functioning of the Argentine national team. With him it will be difficult to end their unbeaten run."

Argentina have not lost in 24 matches over two years.

The Brazilians, who in their previous match beat world champions Germany 3-1 at home, were not pleased with their first half performance.

"Argentina were better in the first half because we played very deep," midfielder Mauro Silvano said.

In the second half we moved up the field and found our way in the match."

Argentine went in front

through new cap Alejandro Moncayo in the 18th minute. Moncayo's Luis Henrique equalised 16 minutes after the interval.

### THE BETTER HALF

By Glasberg



"There are many ways to put the sparks back. Try kissing with flint in your mouth."

### JUMBLE

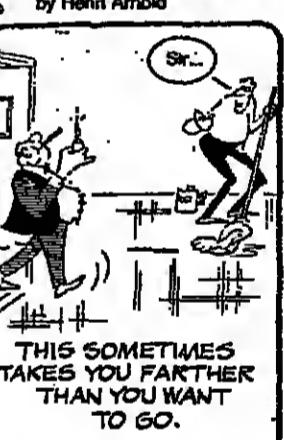
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to a square, to form four ordinary words.

**WULAF**

CLIFFEX

GOUTUD

HODRIC



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

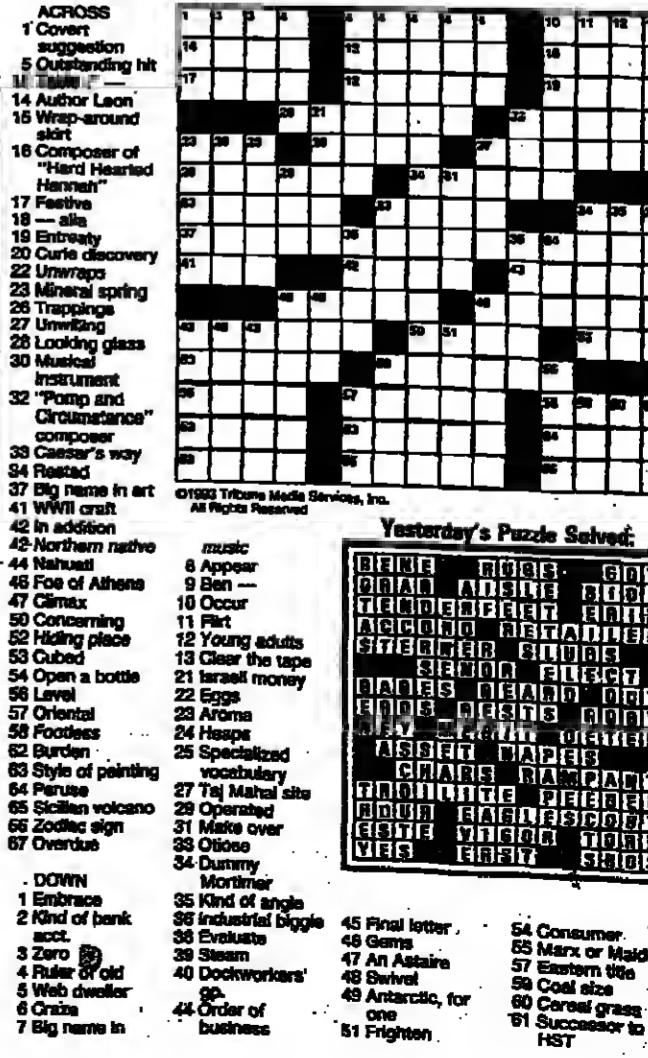
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: HEDGE LOOSE LEAVEN AROUND

Answer: Something every golfer yearns for, but not in his socks—A HOLE IN ONE

### THE Daily Crossword

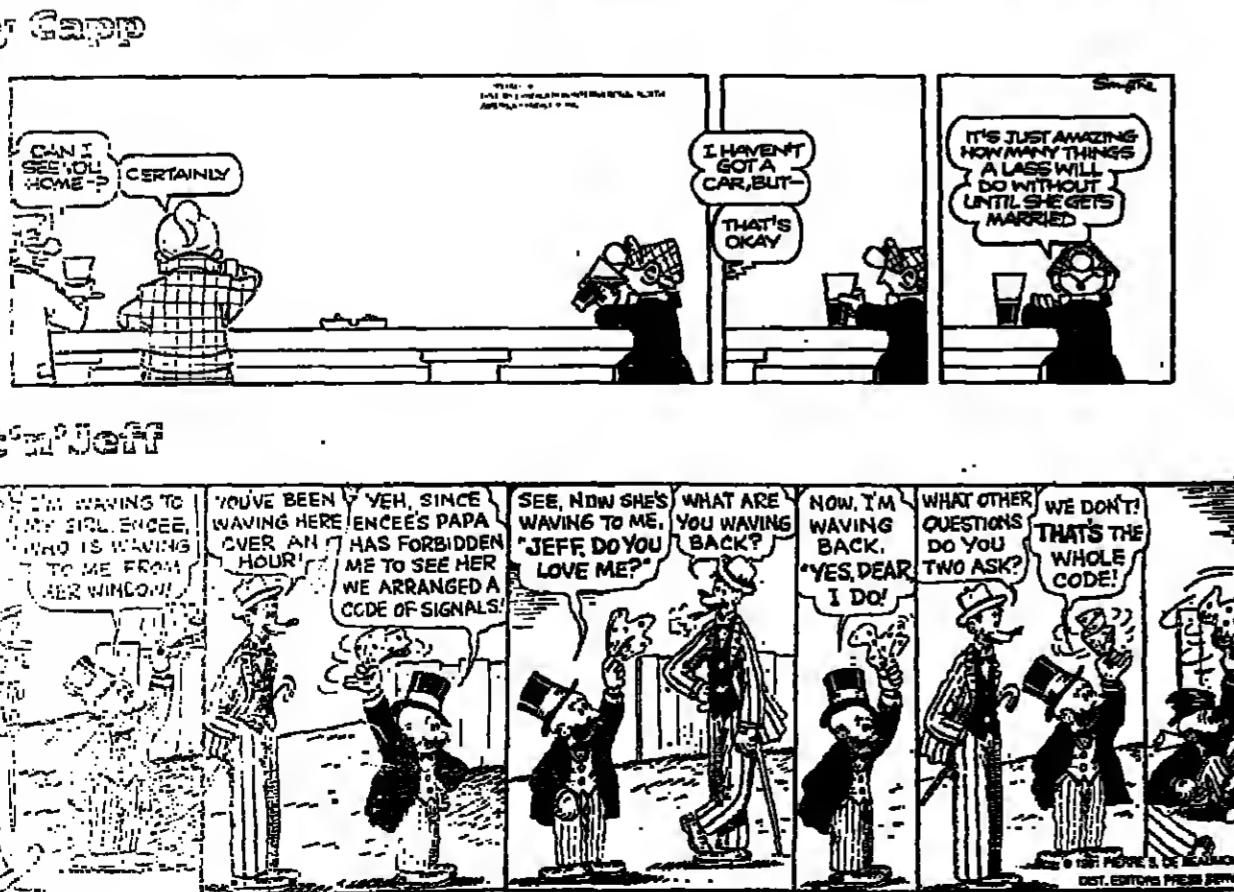
by Samuel K. Fliegner



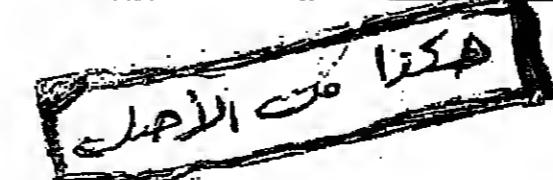
### POETRIES



### Andy Capp



### Cartoon by Jeff



## Bahrain offshore banking assets soar

AMMAN (R) — Assets of offshore banking units (OBUs) operating in Bahrain soared in the first nine months of 1992 to \$62.69 billion, up to 21.5 per cent on the same period the previous year despite a drop in the number of operating OBUs.

Figures released Tuesday by the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) showed total assets of OBUs at end-September 1991 stood at \$51.58 billion.

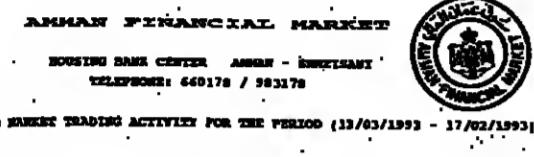
A BMA quarterly bulletin said there were 44 OBUs operation in Bahrain, the Gulf's main financial centre, at end-September 1992, compared with 47 OBUs at end-September 1991. There were 75 units on the island at the start of the 1970s oil boom.

OBUs' end-September 1992

assets were \$2.4 billion up on the first half of 1992 of \$60.27 billion. Assets of commercial banks stood at 2.0 billion dinars (\$5.3 billion) at the end of third quarter of 1992, marginally down from 2.05 billion dinars (\$5.4 billion) at end-September 1991.

Private sector's deposits with banks climbed to 1.07 billion dinars (\$2.84 billion) in the first nine months of 1992 compared with 972.3 million dinars (\$2.58 billion) in the same period the previous year.

Total assets of the BMA at end-September 1992 dropped to \$15.6 million dinars (\$1.37 billion) from \$73.5 million (\$1.52 billion) at end-September 1991. But were up on the mid-year figure of 498.0 million (\$1.32 billion).



AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKETS  
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDANIA  
TELEPHONE: 660178 / 583378

ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (13/03/1993 - 17/03/1993)

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME TRADING VOLUME PREV. OPENING CLOSING CLOSING PRICE PRICE

JD JD

ARAB BANK 437,388 133,500 134,000 132,000 4,730

JORDAN NATIONAL BANK 365,894 5,000 5,000 4,730

BAKERS JORDAN 115,232 33,500 22,500 33,000

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK 178,572 3,700 3,700 3,810

THE BAKERS BANK 178,775 4,000 4,000 3,750

JOHNSON BANK 45,160 3,600 3,600 3,200

ARAB JORDAN DEVELOPMENT BANK 325,272 3,500 3,500 5,160

JORDAN SALT BANK 127,982 4,500 4,500 3,750

JOHNSON BANK 26,144 3,600 3,600 4,100

JOHNSON BANK 55,367 3,500 3,500 3,200

JOHNSON BANK 59,782 5,650 5,650 5,500

JOHNSON BANK 25,198 5,500 5,500 5,200

JOHNSON BANK 353,957 1,700 1,700 1,700

JOHNSON BANK 24,472 3,850 3,800 3,500

JOHNSON BANK 49,902 3,700 3,700 3,700

JOHNSON BANK 5,180 3,750 3,700 3,850

JOHNSON BANK 53,979 3,750 3,700 3,700

JOHNSON BANK 528,063 3,840 3,800 3,720

JOHNSON BANK 28,327 3,900 3,000 3,800

JOHNSON BANK 464 8,500 8,334 8,334

JOHNSON BANK 572 3,500 4,000 4,000

JOHNSON BANK 38,388 3,350 3,370 3,130

JOHNSON BANK 635 3,350 3,250 3,250

JOHNSON BANK 1,618 3,350 3,010 3,700

JOHNSON BANK 1,420 3,350 3,400 3,420

JOHNSON BANK 235,320 3,300 3,000 3,720

JOHNSON BANK 11,145 1,125 1,125 1,125

JOHNSON BANK 609 8,400 9,550 9,550

JOHNSON BANK 29,018 5,800 5,800 5,700

JOHNSON BANK 9,211 3,600 3,600 3,600

JOHNSON BANK 55,133 3,800 3,840 3,850

JOHNSON BANK 233,722 4,500 4,600 4,650

JOHNSON BANK 101,618 1,770 1,750 1,750

JOHNSON BANK 109,145 6,960 6,960 6,950

JOHNSON BANK 13,509 1,230 1,230 1,190

JOHNSON BANK 4,172 1,500 1,450 1,370

JOHNSON BANK 33,394 1,400 1,320 1,340

JOHNSON BANK 26,059 11,500 13,000 11,100

JOHNSON BANK 9,211 3,600 3,600 3,600

JOHNSON BANK 28,572 2,210 2,250 2,250

JOHNSON BANK 6,455 31,300 22,050 22,050

JOHNSON BANK 34,590 3,500 3,500 3,450

JOHNSON BANK 720,967 1,950 1,950 1,910

JOHNSON BANK 87,155 3,600 3,600 4,750

JOHNSON BANK 2,782,953 16,610 16,750 16,750

JOHNSON BANK 42,155 7,400 7,400 8,100

JOHNSON BANK 5,311 3,600 3,600 3,600

JOHNSON BANK 101,479 6,610 5,900 5,900

JOHNSON BANK 44,894 31,300 18,300 3,850

JOHNSON BANK 149,049 6,520 6,500 6,540

JOHNSON BANK 66,410 6,150 6,050 6,000

JOHNSON BANK 34,854 2,690 2,700 3,520

JOHNSON BANK 343,196 3,930 3,970 3,940

JOHNSON BANK 6,051 4,950 4,950 4,500

JOHNSON BANK 40,141 3,350 3,300 3,370

JOHNSON BANK 145,930 34,000 33,500 33,900

JOHNSON BANK 540,407 3,350 3,350 3,320

JOHNSON BANK 10,545 3,600 3,600 3,700

JOHNSON BANK 37,355 6,700 6,700 6,700

JOHNSON BANK 143,300 11,930 11,950 11,300

JOHNSON BANK 363,728 3,500 3,500 3,210

JOHNSON BANK 434,345 14,000 13,950 13,500

JOHNSON BANK 99,849 3,150 3,150 3,150

JOHNSON BANK 4,550 3,700 3,600 3,600

JOHNSON BANK 13,773 2,000 2,000 2,000

JOHNSON BANK 6,741 3,600 3,600 3,600

JOHNSON BANK 234,981 5,000 5,010 5,000

JOHNSON BANK 337,158 1,110 1,110 1,110

JOHNSON BANK 1,955,472 4,350 4,350 4,270

JOHNSON BANK 3,393 5,770 5,700 5,200

JOHNSON BANK 417,100 3,010 3,010 3,040

JOHNSON BANK 338,173 24,000 14,700 11,800

JOHNSON BANK 31,575 4,200 4,700 4,130

JOHNSON BANK 11,093 1,350 1,350 1,350

JOHNSON BANK 99,577 6,550 6,540 6,600

JOHNSON BANK 31,400 4,140 4,100 4,030

JOHNSON BANK 1,329,559 9,330 9,330 8,550

JOHNSON BANK 321,818 6,830 6,800 6,870

JOHNSON BANK 399,727 4,330 4,220 4,050

JOHNSON BANK 117,544 1,940 1,930 1,930

JOHNSON BANK 895,612 5,300 5,700 5,550

GRAND TOTAL 18,475,343

PARASOL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (13/03/1993 - 17/03/1993)

WEEKLY REPORT

## Arab bourses could be next for major growth

BAHRAIN (R) — The free-market philosophy sweeping the Arab World has brought the region's stock markets to the threshold of a new boom, a leading Arab economist has said.

Hikmat Nashashibi of the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), said experienced and alert fund managers were starting to take interest in Arab bourses, although many were still small.

The key to the improved image of the bourses was the decisions by governments to privatise state-controlled enterprises, the cornerstones of the region's economies, he said.

London-based Nashashibi said the new philosophy affected wealthy Gulf states and poorer nations like Egypt and Jordan and radical Syria and Algeria.

Mr. Nashashibi estimated that state assets worth about \$70 billion across the Middle East could eventually be privatised, with a large proportion sold in the next year or two.

Governments have come to

the realisation that it is impossible to accomplish their privatisation goals without fully functioning bourses," he told an economic conference organised by the Bahrain ministry of information and the financial information group Teletrate.

Newly-privatised companies are expected to become the core listings of the emerging stock markets," he added.

As a fierce partisan battle raged in Washington over his proposals, Mr. Clinton told a rally of several thousand in St. Louis, Missouri, Thursday: "Let us forget about blame and take responsibility for our future."

"Let's do it together. I don't care who gets the credit, I just want us to go forward," he said.

Mr. Clinton arrived early Friday in Chillicothe, a western frontier boom town in the 1800s with a population of 23,000 now. He shook hands with the crowds who turned out to greet him despite biting cold weather.

"It begins the task of restoring

a measure of equity to the tax system, by asking those who benefited the most from the tax cuts of the 1980s to bear a more equitable share of the burden of government," the statement said.

The labour bosses said they

opposed Mr. Clinton's proposal to freeze the pay of federal government workers.

He planned to lead an economic discussion Saturday with 1,800 townspeople, including students and staff, local Democrats and 260 people picked from a

Later he heads east to Hyde Park, New York, the hometown of one of his heroes, depression-era president Franklin Roosevelt, where he will promote his plan before returning to Washington the same day.

House Republican leader Bob Michel of Illinois says Mr. Clinton is leading "the biggest propaganda campaign in recent political history."

"The White House is even now becoming one big partisan political megaphone," he said late Wednesday after Mr. Clinton proposed his plan to a joint session of Congress. "But public relations campaigns are no substitute for sound public policy."

Annual results were helped by first quarter gains totalling \$86.6 million from the sale of minority interests in SPG Transaction Services Inc. and Sears Mexico.

Including these one-time items, Sears had a net loss of \$1.6 billion, or \$

## Bosnian refugees from blockade zone threaten hunger strike

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Muslim refugees from eastern Bosnia who have escaped to the Muslim town of Tuzla are planning a hunger strike in support of starving compatriots they have left behind, Sarajevo Radio said Friday.

Thousands of Muslims in the East are trapped behind a Bosnian Serb blockade which has frustrated U.N. efforts to send food and medicine to starving communities.

The blockade, and a Muslim boycott of U.N. relief in Sarajevo, has provoked the suspension of supplies by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the main aid agency. Sarajevo Radio said the Bosnian capital was quiet overnight after intensive shelling Thursday.

Tension zones in Croatia, where Croats and Serbs resumed fighting last month, were also calm, Zagreb Radio reported.

U.N. relief officials in Sarajevo were set to close down operations Friday as Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, stood by her decision to suspend operations because the warring parties were playing politics over aid.

In New York, the president of the U.N. Security Council, Moroccan Ambassador Ahmed Shoussi, said Secretary-General Boutros Ghali was asking Mrs. Ogata to rescind her decision as soon as possible.

"I had information from the secretary-general this morning," Mr. Shoussi said Thursday. "The secretary-general has been writing a letter to her (Mrs. Ogata) to resume very quickly."

The Muslim-led Bosnian gov-

ernment has refused to allow relief aid distributed in Sarajevo until Serbs allow food convoys through to Muslims in eastern Bosnia.

The United States said it was studying a range of options to provide aid, including airdrops.

But Pentagon spokesman Bob Hall told reporters Thursday that cargo planes might have to be protected by air power and that "might not be a feasible option."

The Bosnian government issued a statement late Thursday calling for an urgent meeting of the U.N. Security Council to discuss the situation in the light of the UNHCR decision to halt operations.

According to the head of the UNHCR office in Sarajevo, most of whose population are without water and electricity in freezing temperatures, the agency planes to pull most of its staff out of the Bosnian capital by the weekend.

That schedule so far has not been affected by news that Serbian militiamen had finally allowed a 10-truck U.N. convoy carrying emergency relief to move past a roadblock on the road to the eastern Bosnian city of Gorazde, which is encircled by Serb siege forces.

The convoy, stuck for two days at the roadblock, came to a halt again a few kilometres up the road in front of a hole two metres deep and four by five metres wide. Bulldozers and dumper trucks loaded with gravel were used to plug the hole Friday.

The Security Council is expected to adopt a resolution allowing peacekeepers to bring heavy weapons into Croatia to

defend themselves.

The Council also agreed informally to create an international war crimes tribunal to try persons accused of gross human rights abuses in the former Yugoslavia.

That resolution is expected to be adopted next week.

The U.N. refugee agency is looking for a "positive sign" before restarting its relief operations in Bosnia, a spokeswoman said for the UNHCR, told Reuters.

"If the convoy gets through to us, we would consider these as positive signs and reassess the situation," she added.

The UNHCR spokeswoman said while aid had been suspended to eastern Bosnia, the humanitarian agency continued to bring assistance to central Bosnia.

"Operations are going on in central Bosnia as normal," she said.

In a separate development, Bosnian Serbs who recently took Kamenica from Bosnian government troops Wednesday unearthed 23 bodies from mass graves they said contained victims killed by Muslims.

Many of the bodies were Serb uniform. Others were identified by relatives. And some were decapitated and missing limbs.

But, as in other cases of claimed atrocities in the 11-month-old Bosnian war, it was

impossible to firmly establish which ethnic group was the victim and which the aggressor. It was also unclear whether the bodies were mutilated before or after death.

Journalists taken to the two mass graves near Cerska were told by Serb military officials that a total of 40 bodies out of an estimated 100 missing Serbs would likely be found in the immediate vicinity.

The authorities said that many of the victims were civilians taken from their homes amid a sudden Muslim offensive in November. But they acknowledged that a large number of the those killed were actually Bosnian Serb soldiers.

"They caught many of Serbian soldiers and tortured them before finally killing and placing them in mass graves," said Rajko Andelic, a Bosnian Serb soldier who participated in unearthing the bodies.

"I am looking for my brother," said Radovan Makunovic, another soldier, who arrived to examine a row of the decaying bodies of Serbian men, some clothed in civilian garments, some in military uniforms and some naked. Some others claimed to have recognised missing relatives.

Many of the bodies showed signs of torture. Their heads were severely smashed. Others were decapitated.

Sporadic artillery fire could be heard from the direction of the Muslim-held village of Cerska, some 5 kilometres from Kamenica, where an estimated 28,000 people are trapped by a Bosnian Serb siege.

"I don't think anyone will ever know exactly how many people were aboard, or died, in this accident," said Coast Guard Petty Officer Steve Sapp in Miami.

"We're not very optimistic about finding any more survivors at sea."

Five U.S. Coast Guard cutters, a Haitian naval vessel and U.S. aircraft continued their search early Friday for survivors of the ferry Neptune.

Shocked survivors of one of the worst peacetime marine disasters in recent years said they had survived by clinging to flotsam, including the bloated bodies of crows.

Some survivors blamed the disaster on hundreds of passengers who ran to one side of the boat for cover after the Neptune encountered a storm, capsizing the vessel.

Haitian officials said the 150-foot (45-metre) vessel was crammed with between 800 and 2,000 passengers when it capsized during a sudden squall shortly after midnight Tuesday.

In the capital city, ambulances lined up to transfer piles of corpses from docked search vessels to a hospital morgue.

More than 100 bodies were dragged from the ocean by rescue ships, a Coast Guard spokesman in Miami said, and bodies of the dead washed ashore.

"We need to preserve the uninterrupted, smooth transition of power to a new generation of polities, which will mean stability for the country," Mr. Yeltsin said.

His detailed proposal resulted from talks Tuesday with Mr. Khasbulatov. If the men agree on the temporary power separation plan, Mr. Yeltsin wants the Russian Congress to convene in a special session to approve it.

The five-part proposal would be something like a temporary constitution until politicians draft a new national charter.

Russia's leaders have agreed to try to negotiate a new constitution. Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Khasbulatov, however, have threatened to take their disagreement to the nation in a referendum if the talks fail.

The president's proposal calls for the legislative and executive branches to explicitly acknowledge each other's powers.

Mr. Khasbulatov accused President Yeltsin of playing games over the country's future and rejected his proposals for a constitutional agreement.

Speaking at a meeting of regional council chiefs in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk, he said early elections for both the presidency and the parliament must take place by the spring of next year.

He had a handsome face, perfect dark eyes and a straight nose and very attractive lips."

She said Wallenberg played hymns and German songs on an accordion.

"It was obvious he had only recently learned. He was always looking at his fingers to see if he was playing right."

"I was told he was a Swede — Raoul Wallenberg from the Swedish embassy," she said.

"He said he came from the north 'some time back,'" Ms. Schinkarenko said.

Ms. Schinkarenko said she spoke to him briefly in German, but was told he was unwell and needed rest.

She said she never saw him again.

Staffan Aberg of the Swedish embassy in Brussels had no opinion on Ms. Schinkarenko's testimony, saying, "we are not excluding anything, but we can't say this is the ultimate truth."

A joint Swedish-Russian Commission is searching Soviet archives to shed light on the Wallenberg case.

Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt said last August Sweden must assume Wallenberg is still alive for lack of conclusive proof of his death.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Pipeline to Armenia blown up again

MOSCOW (R) — A crucial pipeline supplying gas to land-locked Armenia was blown up in neighbouring Georgia Friday for the third time in four weeks, an Armenian government spokesman said. Vladimir Manoyan said by telephone from Yerevan that the pipe was breached some three kilometres from the Armenian frontier at 2 a.m. The latest blast occurred between the sites of two earlier breaches of the pipeline on Jan. 23 and Feb. 11. Both were repaired after a gap in supplies of several days. No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks. But Armenian officials have blamed Azerbaijan, because of the bloody territorial conflict between the two peoples over Nagorno-Karabakh. The Azerbaijani government has denied any role. Armenia, which is suffering a desperate shortage of fuel, depends on Georgia for its gas. Alternative routes through Azerbaijan were closed because of the five-year-old Karabakh conflict.

#### 6 attempts to kill Yeltsin foiled

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin bodyguards foiled six plots to kill President Boris Yeltsin during 1992, although none of them came close to him, a Russian newspaper said Friday. Nezavisimaya Gazeta, quoting the head of the bodyguards service, said Tamil separatists had also hatched a plot to kill Mr. Yeltsin as a publicity stunt during his visit to India last month. But Indian and Russian security men thwarted them. Lieutenant-General Mikhai Barakov told the daily that the simplest case was of a man who had promised to "punish" the president for the crisis afflicting Russia. He was arrested at Yekaterinburg Railway Station in the Urals, but later released. Another was the case of army officer Ivan Kislov, arrested in the attic of a government office last month with vague ideas about killing Mr. Yeltsin with penknife. Gen. Barsukov, head of the main bodyguards department, said individual "avengers" operating separately had little chance of success. Assassins operating in bands were more dangerous.

#### Bus crash kills 22 in Peru

LIMA (AP) — A bus plunged off a 500 foot cliff side road in the northern Amazon jungle Thursday, killing at least 22 passengers and seriously injuring seven, an official said. Alfonso Paredes, spokesman for the prefect's office in the jungle town of Chachapoyas, 700 kilometres north of Lima, said the bus skidded off the narrow road near the town early Thursday. Mr. Paredes said recent heavy rains had turned the region's unpaved roads into muddy tracks. It was the fourth major accident in Peru this year. Three earlier accidents have left at least 40 people dead.

#### Witness reports seeing Wallenberg in Russian camp in early 1950s

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — A former Soviet Union alumnus has made public a photograph she said showed Raoul Wallenberg in a Soviet detention camp eight years after the Swedish diplomat's reported death.

Natalia Schinkarenko, a survivor of a Gorky Work Camp, showed reporters a photograph she said shows Wallenberg, who is credited with saving up to 20,000 Hungarians from Nazi death camps in a Russian camp in 1953 or 1954.

The photo shows 28 people in traditional Ukrainian costume, some with musical instruments. Ms. Schinkarenko identified a balding man in the middle as Wallenberg.

Ms. Schinkarenko said she was given it some months before she was released from the camp in May, 1956. Gulag authorities first allowed photographs to be taken in the camp in 1953.

Ms. Schinkarenko, a Ukrainian who lives in Kiev, said she didn't come forward with the photo earlier because she was still afraid of Russian authorities after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The order for the arrest of Wallenberg, who would be 80 now, came from Nikolai Bulganin, who later became Soviet premier.

It was dated Jan. 17, 1945, the last day Wallenberg was seen in Budapest, Hungary.

"We then saw a man, not

terribly tall nor small, with grey-black hair," she said.

"He was swollen because of the poor food, and his face was blackened because of frostbite.

"He had a handsome face, perfect dark eyes and a straight nose and very attractive lips."

She said Wallenberg played hymns and German songs on an accordion.

"It was told he was a Swede — Raoul Wallenberg from the Swedish embassy," she said.

"He said he came from the north 'some time back,'" Ms. Schinkarenko said.

Ms. Schinkarenko said she spoke to him briefly in German, but was told he was unwell and needed rest.

She said she never saw him again.

Staffan Aberg of the Swedish embassy in Brussels had no opinion on Ms. Schinkarenko's testimony, saying, "we are not excluding anything, but we can't say this is the ultimate truth."

A joint Swedish-Russian Commission is searching Soviet archives to shed light on the Wallenberg case.

In late September 1955, the women in her camp heard a concert by a troupe of male prisoners visiting from another Gorky Camp, Ms. Schinkarenko said.

"All of a sudden it was said that Raoul Wallenberg was going to play. Nobody knew who this was, and his nationality wasn't explained," said Ms. Schinkarenko who spoke in German.

The Lithuanian prisoners with whom he was held added Lithuania endings to his name, she explained.

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terribly tall nor small, with grey-black hair," she said.

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A group of local residents retrieve water from the city's water system in a trench despite the heavy shelling from Serbia militiamen in central Sarajevo (AFP photo)

## Hundreds die in Haiti ferry accident

### Haitian hijacker surrenders in Miami

MIAMI (AP) — A Haitian held a gun to the head of a pilot and hijacked a missionary plane to Florida, giving up his weapon in midnight after being preached to by one of his captives. Authorities said.

At least 150 survivors were in Petion Goave, a coastal town 80 kilometres from Port-Au-Prince and an unknown number of others were in three southern coastal villages, according to local radio.

Five U.S. Coast Guard cutters, a Haitian naval vessel and U.S. aircraft continued their search early Friday for survivors of the ferry Neptune.

One survivor said she and 13 others initially kept themselves afloat in the dark and heaving seas by hanging onto the bloated body of a dead cow, which was also tossed overboard from the ferry. The woman said she later grabbed a floating crate filled with soda bottles and was washed ashore early Thursday morning.

A 33-year-old survivor said he frantically grabbed a bag of charcoal after being swept into the ocean and bugged it to his chest until a small fishing boat rescued him Wednesday afternoon.

"I was saved by this bucket," said one sobbing woman, pointing to a small white plastic bucket at her feet. "I swam for my life."

The ferry serves as an important commercial link between the capital and the agricultural centre of Jeremie, 240 kilometres away.

Passengers typically were Haitian peasants taking large baskets of fruit, vegetables and charcoal, as well as chicken, pigs and cattle to sell in the market. The ferry boats are routinely packed to capacity, with passengers clinging to the upper decks.

U.S. Coast Guard officials, who dispatched vessels and aircraft to search for survivors, said the accident ranked as one of the worst marine accidents in recent history.

Five U.S. Coast Guard cutters, a Haitian naval vessel and U.S. aircraft continued their search early Friday for survivors of the ferry Neptune.

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